

# FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE



**Policy Number:** 243-01    **Effective Date:** 11/11/2016

**Subject:**  
Organized Crime, Vice and Drugs

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink.

**Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police**



### **PURPOSE:**

To establish guidelines for investigation of organized crime, vice and drug offenses.

### **POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to use all available legitimate means to investigate and apprehend individuals or groups of individuals engaged in organized crime, vice and drug activities.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **Definitions:**

**ORGANIZED CRIME:** Activities which involve violating criminal laws in the pursuit of illegal profits and power by a group or groups of individuals who operate in a hierachal order based on authority or skills. Fear, force or corruption is often used in an effort to supply illegal goods and services or supply goods or services illegally.

**VICE:** Criminal activities relating to immoral conduct, gambling and liquor law violations.

**DRUGS:** Criminal activities relating to illegal possession, use, manufacture or distribution of controlled substances.

#### **Department Commitment:**

The Farmington Police Department is committed to the suppression of organized crime, vice and drug activities. It is the responsibility of all Department members to take an active role in the identification, apprehension, and prosecution of individuals involved in organized crime, vice or drug offenses.

#### **Organized Crime, Vice and Drug Investigation Response:**

The investigation of organized crime and the vice control function is under the supervision of the Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant.

Drug investigations are under the supervision of the Region II Narcotic Enforcement Task Force (Region II) Supervisor. Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant may coordinate investigations in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies. Vice and drug control functions include but are not limited to:

1. Gathering vice and organized crime related intelligence;
2. Prompt follow-up of intelligence information received from sources, both inside and outside of the Department;
3. Region II Narcotics Task Force investigates dangerous drug investigation by following tips, utilizing informants and by self-initiated contacts.

### **Organized Crime Investigation Function:**

The Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the organized crime control and enforcement efforts of the Department.

The function of the Department's organized crime efforts shall include identifying and investigating reports of organized criminal activity within the City of Farmington. These activities include:

1. Investigating organized crime operations;
2. Investigating organized crime figures, including individuals engaged in organized criminal activities, their associates, and the locations they frequent;
3. Utilizing federal agencies assistance depending on the size and scope of the investigation.

### **Receiving and Processing Complaints:**

Our department is committed to investigating organized crime and vice complaints. When an officer receives a complaint they will conduct a thorough preliminary investigation, documenting all factual information on an Offense Report. In those instances where an immediate follow-up investigation is indicated, the preliminary reporting officer may request the services of the on call detective or Region II Agent, with the authorization of the on-duty supervisor.

When immediate follow-up is not required, the preliminary reporting officer will document the organized crime, vice or drug complaint on an Offense Report. The report is forwarded to the Detective Division or Region II for follow up investigation. A Detective Supervisor or Region II Supervisor reviews the report and determines the need and extent of follow-up investigation.

Officers who receive information of any intelligence nature (e.g. anonymous tips, street rumors, etc.) forward the information directly to the Detective Lieutenant or his designee by direct contact, or by another secure means.

## **Organized Crime, Vice and Drug Investigations:**

Officers receiving formal complaints of organized crime, vice or drug activity conduct a thorough preliminary investigation following procedures outlined in this policy.

Detectives or Region II Agents assigned to an organized crime, vice or drug case conduct a follow-up investigation to attempt to substantiate the reported information. Once substantiated, the assigned investigator will notify their supervisor, who determines the scope of the follow-up investigation. A determination is made of whether the investigation is to be handled solely by Department personnel or if federal law enforcement assistance is necessary to seek successful resolution.

## **Confidential Informant Files:**

The procedures set forth in Use of Confidential Informants policy and procedure, #242-02, pertaining to the management and control of informants, is adhered to when recruiting informants who may supply information about organized crime, vice and drug activities.

## **Information Maintenance:**

The Detective Lieutenant, designated sergeant or the Region II Case Support Analyst maintain files for all intelligence and relevant correspondence received pertaining to organized crime, vice and drug activities, including that which is supplied by other agencies. The files are used as a resource when evaluating the Department's efforts in the suppression of organized crime, vice and drug activities within the City of Farmington. Criminal Intelligence information is handled pursuant to the Criminal Intelligence policy and procedure, #251-01.

## **Confidential Funds:**

The Department maintains investigative funds allotted to support operational efforts in the areas of organized crime and vice investigations. Procedures for the use of this fund are delineated in the Use of Confidential Informants policy and procedure, #242-02. Region II maintains separate investigative funds allotted to support operational efforts in the area of drug investigations. Procedures for the use of this fund are delineated in the Use of Confidential Informants policy and procedure, #242-02, and Region II policy and procedure.

## **Control and Use of Surveillance and Undercover Equipment:**

Region II maintains surveillance and undercover equipment at their office. Authorization for the use of this equipment is given by the Region II Supervisor. In instances where the equipment is lent to another law enforcement agency, the Region II Supervisor ensures that it is signed for and when returned it is in good operating condition. When electronic surveillance is used by any Agent in a drug investigation, it is authorized by the Region II Supervisor.

## **Coordination of Department Efforts:**

When necessary to control and suppress organized crime, vice and drug activities, the following procedures are followed:

1. The Detective Lieutenant, designated sergeant or Region II Supervisor will brief the Chief of Police concerning any ongoing investigations or significant intelligence information;
2. The Detective Lieutenant, designated sergeant or Region II Supervisor releases; timely, appropriate, relevant intelligence information to the Patrol Division through the normal Patrol Briefing channel formats, as necessary;
3. Department members are encouraged to develop intelligence information and forward such information to the Detective Division or Region II as outlined in this policy.

### **Evaluating Complaints:**

Investigations of organized crime, vice and drug complaints often require considerable expenditures of time, money and effort. Therefore it is imperative that complaints be evaluated as to their accuracy and credibility. Efforts are made to determine the scope and relative importance of the complaints received. To aid in determining the scope of effort made toward the investigation of organized crime, vice and drug complaints, the following criteria is considered:

1. Validity of the information, based on source and content reliability;
2. Criminal nature of the problem;
3. Sufficiency of investigative leads;
4. Investigative techniques that can be utilized;
5. Sufficiency of resources to investigate the complaint;
6. Jurisdictional responsibility.

### **Organized Crime and Vice Surveillance:**

Organized crime or vice surveillance shall not be initiated without the approval of the Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant. No organized crime or vice surveillance is initiated unless there is reasonable suspicion that the person or location placed under observation is engaged in criminal activity.

Prior to initiating a surveillance operation, the Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant should:

1. Analyze all available intelligence information pertaining to the operation, including the crime, victims and suspects;
2. Identify and analyze probable offenders, their habits, associates, vehicles, methods of operation and all pertinent information;
3. Familiarize assigned officers, Detectives and Agents with targeted areas for surveillance;

4. Establish operational procedures for surveillance, and effecting the arrest;
5. Provide expense funds for surveillance teams (cover charges, etc.);
6. Establish a means of communication (e.g. car radio, portable radio, cellular phone, etc.);
7. Select needed specialized equipment or vehicles;
8. Provide adequate relief for surveillance team;
9. Contact the District Attorney's Office for technical legal advice, when appropriate.

### **Covert and Undercover Operations:**

Covert undercover operations should be approved and supervised by the Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant.

The Detective Lieutenant or designated sergeant is responsible for briefing the on-duty Patrol Division Supervisor concerning the operation prior to its initiation, as needed.

The Detective Supervisor or Region II Supervisor is responsible for addressing the following concerns prior to initiating any covert or undercover operation:

1. Analysis of suspect(s) and their identity;
2. Provisions for initiating contact with suspect;
3. Analysis of the neighborhood surrounding the target area;
4. Obtaining appropriate credentials for false identities for surveillance officers, if applicable;
5. Maintenance of false identities confidentiality;
6. Providing expense funds;
7. Securing necessary equipment to carry out the operations;
8. Determination of communication channels or other appropriate communication methods, especially emergency communications;
9. Determination of legal ramifications of the operations, seeking advice from the District Attorney's Office, when appropriate;
10. Developing plans and guidelines should an arrest result;
11. Ensuring adequate police personnel are available for the safety of undercover personnel;

12. Ensuring close supervision is provided throughout the operation.

### **Executing Search and Arrest Warrants:**

Warrants served on organized crime, vice and drug targets should only be conducted pursuant to a warrant and with legal and judicial probable cause. A warrant will only be initiated with the approval of the Detective Lieutenant designated sergeant or Region II Supervisor.

All warrants will be conducted in a legally justifiable manner and will be supervised by a Detective Lieutenant, designated sergeant or Region II Supervisor. Before executing any warrant the following provisions should be met:

1. Establishing plan regarding securing persons or potential suspects who may be present when warrant is executed;
2. Establishing strategies and tactics for approaching, entering, securing and leaving the target location;
3. Establishing plans for searching and seizing evidence or contraband;
4. Selecting and securing of any specialized equipment needed to carry out the warrant;
5. Arranging for assistance from specialized support units, issuing appropriate radio communication call numbers and operation assignments;
6. Arranging for the processing of arrested suspects;
7. Requiring all relevant activities be documented in reports;

### **Activity Reporting:**

The Region II Director submits monthly and quarterly activity reports to the Chief of Police. These reports keep the Chief of Police informed of Region II activities by reporting case particulars, demographics, drug seizures, drug purchases and other data.